

[12 December, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

planning to exempt their carriers from paying airport and navigation charges in the first five years of operation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government are also contemplating to extend subsidy to airlines on bidding basis to promote regional connectivity including the North East and Jammu and Kashmir; and

(c) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The proposals to promote regional connectivity and regional airlines are under consideration of the Government as part of New Draft Civil Aviation Policy.

#### **New airport at Ludhiana**

2113. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have given the approval of an airport in Ludhiana in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details of the project; and

(c) whether this new project will affect the working of airport at Amritsar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There is proposal for construction of a Civil Enclave at Halwara Defence Airfield near Ludhiana in the State of Punjab.

(b) The project, *inter-alia* includes construction of a terminal building, civil apron, strengthening of runway, installation of ground lightings, installation of communication equipments, construction of cargo and extension of runway etc.

(c) No, Sir.

#### **Operation of Pune airport**

2114. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the Government's decision on a civilian airport at Pune and by when it would be operational?